

on the beautiful wildlife in our state and what we can do to conserve it. The organization and its staff have shown a remarkable commitment to research, conservation and education.

The genesis of VINS can be traced back to David Laughlin, who spearheaded a study of the Ottauquechee River in central Vermont. The river was found to be badly polluted by waste and runoff. Joining Dr. Laughlin's efforts were his wife Sally Laughlin, Rick Farrar, and June McKnight. The group's efforts ultimately led to the first water quality litigation in the state of Vermont. The group built on the momentum from the victorious river cleanup, remaining vigilant in their commitment to preserving the river's future. Their brainstorming culminated into the idea to establish an environmental organization aimed at educating young children. Thus, came the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in 1972.

Since its founding, VINS' mission has stressed education as a critical tool in changing perspectives and maintaining a healthy environment. Early on, Sally Laughlin led the charge to establish a bird-banding project with the help of her experienced colleague, Rick Farrar. The bird banding program, educational activities, and the river clean-up, established VINS as a critical Vermont institution.

Today, VINS is defined by its environmental and education focus at the VINS Nature Center, with 35 exhibit and education raptors utilized in daily live education programs from a trained educator's hand; the Forest Canopy Walk and Outdoor Classroom; the ADA trail network; VINS School Programs, which reach 3,400 students and 600 teachers each year; the Adventure Playscape; and the Center for Wild Bird Rehabilitation. The rehabilitation center treats injured birds found throughout the state with the eventual goal of releasing them back into the wild. The center treated a record of 1,098 birds last year alone. Those birds which cannot be released safely are kept at VINS' Nature Center as "ambassadors" for their species to help educate curious visitors.

As Executive Director Charles Rattigan takes VINS into its next 50 years, the institute remains a sought-after destination for visitors and residents of Vermont and the Upper Valley. This year alone, over 69,000 visitors passed through its gates to learn about raptors, native species and the environments in which they live. Curious people of all ages learned how to actively care for our natural world, helping to fulfill VINS' crucial mission of motivating individuals and communities to care for their environment. I want to recognize VINS for its passionate commitment to education, research and avian wildlife rehabilitation. VINS continues to be an influential steward of the natural world, in Vermont and beyond.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 1086

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of commemorating the 50th anniversary of U.S.-Bangladesh relations. In my district, my hometown of Buffalo, New York hosts a significant

Bangladeshi population that contributes to Buffalo's rich cultural diversity and helps the city live up to its moniker as the City of Good Neighbors. I am proud to be representing the more than 10,000 Bangladeshi constituents in my district, and recently introduced H. Res. 1086 honoring the 50th anniversary of U.S.-Bangladesh relations.

The United States recognized the independence of Bangladesh on April 4, 1972. Since then, our two nations have cooperated on a myriad of issues, including the protection of Rohingya refugees fleeing genocide, the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and the continuation of a peaceful and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

The past thirty-five years have witnessed an influx of Bangladeshi immigrants to the United States, making the group the fastest growing Asian-American population in the country. In Buffalo, these individuals have established vibrant communities all over the city, with a specific concentration on the East Side including the neighborhoods of Broadway-Fillmore, Genesee Moselle, Fillmore-Leroy, and Kensington. Members of the Bangladeshi community have started businesses, are renovating vacant homes, and are enriching the fabric of our region through their cultural contributions.

The Bangladeshi population has made it a priority to foster a sense of community and cultural identity among its members. It has founded organizations such as the Bangladesh Society of Buffalo and the Buffalo Bangla Newspaper with this particular goal in mind. Furthermore, the ranks of Bengali-speaking students enrolled in Buffalo Public Schools have continued to swell, and I am grateful to see to this cross-cultural cooperation in our city.

I look forward to welcoming further Bangladeshi immigrants to the United States and continue to admire the unique perspectives and experiences they bring to our nation. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to express my deep appreciation for the long-standing relationship and cooperation between the United States and Bangladesh.

SUPPORTING SENATE AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO S. 2938

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, with the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, Congress has come together to address the deadly gun violence epidemic that has plagued our communities and the innocent children in them for far too long. The Act will finally codify enhanced background checks for individuals under 21, fund mental health and school safety, provide incentives for states to implement "red flag" laws, limit the "boyfriend loophole" and prohibit the straw purchasing and trafficking of firearms—a provision that I have worked on for over a decade. This legislation represents one of the most significant steps Congress has taken to reduce gun violence in nearly 30 years. The American public and its children will be safer because of the passage of this groundbreaking bipartisan bill and the

legacy of this legislation will resonate for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELEN PRATHER

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2022

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize and celebrate Ms. Helen Prather, a long-time resident of Detroit in Michigan's 13th Congressional District as she celebrates a milestone, her one hundred fifth birthday.

Born in 1917, Ms. Prather was one of ten siblings in her close-knit family. She grew up in the heart of Detroit near Grand River. In her youth and throughout her life, Ms. Prather was a tireless fighter for advancement and protection of civil rights. She was also especially proud of her long career in social services, from which she retired at the age of eighty-eight.

Ms. Prather has always valued her family life. She raised her children in Detroit alongside her dear husband Joseph, to whom she was happily married for more than sixty years until his death in 2005. Ms. Prather has been an anchoring presence in her family, remaining steadfast in her love for her multigenerational family, which includes her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchild.

Ms. Helen Prather is truly cherished by her family, friends, and neighbors. Please join me in wishing her a very happy birthday, surrounded by love and light.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2022 STANLEY CUP WINNERS COLORADO AVALANCHE

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2022

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues: Congressman Ed PERLMUTTER, Congressman KEN BUCK, Congressman JOE NEGUSE, Congressman JASON CROW, and Congresswoman LAUREN BOEBERT, to recognize the best team in U.S. hockey, the Colorado Avalanche. We make this tribute after the Avalanche clinched the 2022 Stanley Cup with their Game 6 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Sunday, June 26, 2022.

For fans of the Colorado Avalanche, who have patiently waited for more than 20 years to see our favorite team triumphantly raise the Stanley Cup again, the journey to Sunday night's victory has been long but worth the wait. We have watched this team battle through setbacks and injuries with admirable grit and determination, culminating this year in a 16-4 post-season record and a well-deserved trophy.

To secure their spot in the Stanley Cup Finals, the Avalanche overcame formidable teams, including their Western Conference challengers the Edmonton Oilers, who they swept in four games to advance to the Finals. There, they defeated the two-time defending